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THE AMERICAN STAMP.

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Oddities.

ERA.

While a complete and perfect set of postage or revenue stamps of a country are pleasing to the eye and highly gratifying to the owner, yet a single page of oddities, mistakes, proofs in colors other than that adopted will attract more attention not only from philatelists but also, oftimes from those who have no knowledge of things philatelical.

For instance, nothing in my collection elicits half admiration that a set of some right odd proofs in different colors, tints and shades of the twenty cent Chilian stamps. It is the same with my "color" proofs, the New York and 1874 stamps, and yet many collectors would prefer a complete set of current issue Germans.

Oddities in perforation are getting to command prices which would have astonished the olden time collectors who "pared" his stamps to make them fit a Sallier's album. The best illustration may be found, perhaps, in the part or double perforated first issue revenues of the United States. Double perforated postage stamps also show their worth, a three cent red of the present issue being readily procured at face value, but a double perforated being worth at least eight times its face. Slanting and "crooked" perforation being whatever the oddity collector will give and are good property to have.

Accidents in printing causing blotched or defective results are scarce and should command a good price, but are unfortunately few and far between, and as a result, little known or sought after. Half or bi-sected United States stamps on original covers are not often met with and are usually consigned to obscurity with the remark, "some collector fixed it" or made to order. But if it actually passed through the post that does not affect its value, for it has a value, but at the same time I would advise collectors to be careful where they get them.

To the United States oddity collector the largest field is among the envelopes and at least *eight* classified kind of oddities exist.

First.—Albinoes, the stamp being devoid of color.

Second.—Partial albinoes, part of the stamp being in color and part not. Both are more frequently met with than generally supposed.

Third.—Two envelopes folded together, showing how albinoes are made, the outer one receiving the colored impression, the inner one being in albino. Exceedingly rare.

Fourth.—Albino on front but the back being colored. Rarer than any of the foregoing.

Fifth.—Restrikes, showing two impressions caused by being run twice through the press.

Sixth.—Two stamps impressed in correct colors on obverse and linked together in some way. Sterling's sixth variety of envelope oddities. Said to be exceedingly rare.

Seventh.—Misplacements. Stamp in

correct color but in wrong position on envelope.

Eighth.—Flaws in plates, causing mistakes in printing, such as the so-called rejected die.

Many other little oddities in envelopes are caused by the gum, watermarks and knives.

The collection of pairs and blocks, while not strictly oddities, is gaining ground with "specialists," and the collection of essays while out of the "beaten path" is most attractive.

Nova Scotia Provisionals.

Back in 1884, there was quite a stir on the continent and in the United States anent the provisionals said to have been issued in 1861, by surcharging as well as by cutting stamps of a higher denomination to make up the new values to correspond with the new rates.

At that time Mr. Hechler made the statement in the *Philatelic Courier*, that no surcharged stamps had ever been in use in Nova Scotia.

In the December issue of the *Halifax Philatelist* Mr. D. H. King gives much valuable information about them, illustrated with a photo-lithographed arto-type plate of seven varieties, six of which are in his own collection.

We will briefly describe them, using the plate numbers.

No. 1. 6d. Surcharged "10." 10c.
No. 2. 3d. " with circle enclosing "5."
No. 3. 6d. cut diagonally—3d.
No. 4. 6d. cut vertically—3d.
No. 5. 3d's. 1 cut diagonally, 2 entire—7½d.
No. 6. 6d. cut diagonally—3d.
No. 7. 6d. and 3d. 6d. entire, 3d. cut diagonally—7½d.

The thanks of the philatelical public are due to Mr. King for his able efforts in this as well as in sifting the "Connell" matter.

Victoria Revenues.

At various periods since January 1, 1884, there have appeared in various periodicals reports of different fiscals of Victoria being used postally.

The manner that they have been presented leads the collector to class them as provisionals or errors.

The law in the colony of Victoria that went into effect on the first day of January, 1884, made all fiscals postage stamps and all postage stamps fiscals, and this should be easy to understand.

And the collector of Australian postal stamps should have not the slightest hesitation in admitting to his collection not only such fiscals as did actually prepay postage, but *all* revenues in use at the time of the passage of the act.

These stamps are as legitimate as any postal stamp created by law, and are as collectable as any unused postal issue; they are not only fiscal stamps but they are postage stamps.

At the time, Mr. D. H. Hill, of the colonial treasury in Melbourne, Vic., sent the writer a complete list of the new postals thus created which is pended:

FEE STAMPS.

1-2d. Green on White.
"1-2d." on the 1d. in Red.
1d. Green on White.
3d. Violet on White.
4d. Carmine on White.
6d. Blue on White.

1s. Dark Blue on Blueish.
2s. Blue on Greenish.
2s. 6d. Orange on White.
5s. Blue on Buff.
10s. Reddish Brown on Pinkish.
£1. Mauve on Yellow.

LARGE UPRIGHT RECTANGULAR ADHESIVES.

£5. Green and Black on White. Large oblong.

The above list of fee stamps were formerly used only in the courts of law and on patent office certificates.

All the stamps of this set have the words "Stamp Statute," and are water-marked "V" over crown.

DUTY STAMPS.

1d. Light Brown on White.
6d. Bright Blue on White.
1s. Dark Blue on Blue.
1s. 6d. Rose on White.
2s. Blue on Green.
3s. Lake Scarlet on Blue.
4s. Vermilion on White.
5s. Magenta on Canary.
6s. Light Green on White.
10s. Dark Brown on Pinkish.
15s. Violet on White.
£1. Orange on Yellow.
£1 5s. Pale Pink on White.
£1 10s. Olive Green on White.
£2. Blue on White.
£2 5s. Lavender on White.
£5. Pink on White.
£5. Blue on Pink
£7. Magenta on Blue.
£8. Vermilion on Yellow.
£9. Green on Green.

LARGE UPRIGHT RECTANGLE.

£10. Mauve on White.
£25. Green on White.
£50. Violet on White.
£100. Deep Pink on White.

Large oblong rectangle, water-mark "V" over crown.

All the duty stamps have the words "Stamp Duty" on them, and were used prior to January 1, 1884, only on bills of exchange, deeds of land, insurance, licenses, etc., and for checks and receipts over £5.

WILLIAM A. WARNER.

Caloric Stamps.

The danger of washed postage stamps being used, and in this manner depriving the government of legitimate revenue, has led many inventors to make efforts to remedy the evil.

The various methods devised to overcome this, would certainly be interesting to philatelists.

This article will be but one of a series of curious suggestions that have from time to time been offered to the government.

Prof. H. Van der Weyde, of Brooklyn, N. Y., would have the postage stamps printed in inks manufactured from pigments that would resist both moisture and dryness, as well as coldness and light.

Modern chemistry has brought to our knowledge the existence of many colored solids that will evaporate at a heat of 300°. Thus, if the stamps were printed in such inks, all that would be necessary would be to pass the letters into an oven or steam chest heated to 300° or 350° Fahrenheit, and left there for but a few minutes for the entire printing on the face of the stamp to votilize.

In order not to destroy all knowledge of the face value of the stamp, the denomination could be printed in the ordinary ink.

The change in temperature would not affect the writing, as the writing inks and fluids are either aniline or of vegetable origin.

There are many substances that could be used :

Bi-iodide of potassium—scarlet,

Realgar—dark red,

Orpiment—yellow,

and so on ; there are a number of compounds also that will votilize.

The only drawback to such stamps would be fire in post offices. The stamps might be in safes and yet the temperature be great enough to cancel them, aside from this, there would be increased speed in the cancellation of letters in large post offices.

WALTER A. DE CORA.

Private Mail from Cimarron Territory.

That portion of the United States lying north of Texas, and on most maps delineated as a portion of Indian Territory, is, however, outside of any State or Territory.

The inhabitants, however, are desirous of being made a territory, and propose the name of Cimarron, from the principal river.

This strip, while without government, has formed a provisional legislature. The United States Post Office Department have been more generous than the general government, has established three post offices in the territory, calling it the "public land strip."

In order to distribute the mail to the smaller settlements the private mail was organized ; and this service is free to the settlers, being supported by subscriptions and a percentage of the Post Masters commissions for cancellation of stamps.

The service is carried on in United States mail-bags loaned by the Post Masters, and is carried by the carriers over the routes of the Southern Stage and Express Co., or by pony express when off the route.

Beaver City, the principal town, is the starting place for the service, which runs west from there and east to Englewood once a week, and from Beaver three times a week to Meade Centre, Kansas.

The carriers are bonded to the United States but receive no remuneration from the government. The Post Masters give two-third commission on all matter delivered.

The writer is indebted to Mr. J. Thomas the mayor of Beaver, for the above information.

W. H. M.

Post, Mail and Dispatch.

United States, private local.—The Scott Co. present us with a new discovery this month, Baltimore, 1856. Wood & Co.'s City Despatch; this stamp is type set in three lines enclosed in type set border; "Wood & Co., City Despatch, Baltimore." Printed in black on yellow paper.

Private local.—Mr. Scott, in his revised list now being published in the *American Journal of Philatelia*, presents a new type of Honour's City Post. He gives the date as 1849. It is an oval band inscribed above "Honour's City Post," below, "Paid 2 Cents." There is an oval space in centre, probably the

initials of the proprietor, "J. D. H.," was signed here.

General issue.—The 4 cent has at last appeared, as also has the new special delivery. They are on sale at but few offices till the present stock is exhausted.

Afghanistan.—The 1-3 rupee issued a short time since is of the same design as the same value of 1883, but is from a new die, 28 instead of 26 mm., and is printed in lake on white verge batonne paper.

British Bechuanaland.—The stamps are now being surcharged with a large numeral of value. The 4d., 6d. and 1s. have so appeared.

Canada.—Der Phi. is responsible for this. In 1886, the 5 cent, beaver, was cut in two and used as a 2 1-2 cent stamp.

French Colonies.—The 4c. brown on blue has been surcharged "Martinique —01c.," and the same stamp also bears the over print "Martinique—05c."

Mexico.—The 2c. carmine comes now perforated 6 1-2. Der Phi.

Nederland.—Mr. W. A. Warner has sent us the following stamps issued to carry into effect the new postal rates.

7 1-2 cents, red-brown,
22 1-2 " dark green,
1 guld., Lavender.

The entire series are to be changed, also the telegraph and express, or railway stamps.

New South Wales.—Dr. Syme has sent us the new one penny, two pence and four pence.

Salvador.—Mr. Bogert gives the complete set of sizes of the 5 and 10 centavos.

5c. blue on white, blue lined paper, 80x140 mm.
5c. blue on white, lilac paper, 80x140 mm.
5c. " " pink " "
5c. " " white " "
5c. " " yellow " "
5c. " " buff " "
5c. " " green " "
5c. " " yellow " 73x120mm.

The 10c. red comes in the above sizes and colors, as does the eleven centavos blue and buff.

10c. red on plain paper, 106x137 mm.
10c. carmine on cream " " "
10c. " orange " " "
10c. red on cream " " "
10c. blue on " " " "
10c. buff on " " " "

Making 34 varieties in all.

Regency of Tunis.—The 1 franc olive on green has appeared.

Far and Near.

A postal clerk worked in his dirty car,
Hustling mail from near and far
In a "get there Eli" sort of a way.
He talked to himself and I heard him say,
"That a U. S. postal clerk, is as a rule,
An under paid, overworked Government mule."

* * *

In Hayti there is no inland communication now existing. The mail is carried by men on foot, as, except in the immediate vicinity of the towns, there is no roadway, the dense growth of the tropics precluding the use of coaches. Most of the domestic mail is, however, carried along the coast in small sailing vessels. Mules are used on some of the best roads.

* * *

The National Philatelical Society now boasts of over one hundred members on its roll.

* * *

If any one would call it right,
Although it may seem flighty,
He'll have to take the native way,
And safely call it Hay ti. (Highty.)
—*Washington Post.*

* * *

The National Society have a new

scheme on foot. It is an exhibition this time. The Brooklyn Club and Staten Island Society have been invited to unite with them in the enterprise and have consented. The affair is now in the hands of a joint committee, and will take place at the Eden Musee on February 1st.

A bill was passed by the House to-day providing that the omission by the sender to place the lawful postage on a letter bearing a special delivery stamp shall not hinder or delay the transmission and delivery thereof, but the lawful postage shall be collected on delivery.—*Washington, Dec.* 31, '88.

Some time ago a prominent philatelist informed us that he had been shown a one-cent United States due stamp bearing the surcharge, "Postage—Bergen Point, N. J.," by a well known dealer in manufactured wares.

It is only necessary for us to say that the unpaid stamps used at Bergen Point by Post Master Munn were not surcharged, and this item is merely a warning to the younger collectors of this New York origin of provisionals.

The various devices resorted to by correspondents on opposite sides of the border during the late Civil War, are not only unique but very interesting. So it has occurred to Mr. Wm. A. Warner to gather together such contrabands and if there be in the collections of any of our readers any such curiosities, if they will send a description to him they will confer a favor not only to him but to themselves and philately.

Mr. Mekeel speaks of the dealers in America depending on the dealers of Europe. This is not only true, but American collectors are beginning to purchase largely of foreign dealers. It is true in many cases that United States stamps are cheaper on the other side than here.

The *Halifax Philatelist* makes the statement that the Gibralter stamps are in use in Algiers, Algeria.

Is it as a British consul or a postal agency, or has another of the Barbary States fallen to European power?

It may be a matter of curiosity to some philatelists why North Australia has never issued any postage stamps, and it may be also matter of surprise if any have received any letters from Palmerston to have seen the South Australian stamps on them.

In this they have been misled by the boundaries on the current maps and by the school geographies.

South Australia was, like many other colonies, first started by private enterprise in the form of the South Australia Company. This Company started the present colony in 1836 and by 1840 a local government was established. In 1862 all the territory between Queensland and Western Australia, and north of South Australia, including what is shown on the maps as Alexandra Land, and North Australia was annexed. This is now known as the northern territory of South Australia.

When the Post Office was first established at Constable's Hook, N. J., it was named Van Buskirk, N. J., and there was no such place in the Post Office Guide as the "Hook."

This gave rise to so many blunders, and so many letters went dead, that the department changed the name to the one in common use.

There is in the editor's collection a letter that was mailed in Bergen Point, addressed to a party on Constable's Hook. This letter was by the transit

clerk in the New York Post Office sent to what he thought was Constantinople, Turkey, and as a sequence the letter started to the Orient and made the return trip without accident. It then went from New York to the "Hook," all for two cents and a three months tour in Europe.

When the rulers in Great Britain die, their successor's portrait, on both coins and stamps, face the other way. Queen Victoria's bust faces the left, her successor's will face toward the right.—*Quaker City Phil.*

Which way does the profile on the Canadians from 1868-82; the Falkland Islands 1878-9; Newfoundland three cent 1870-80; the Transvaal of 1878-82; Van Dieman's Land 1853; which way do they face, "Philly Boys," mayhap ours are counterfeits?

"What is philately good for? This question I have often been asked and I have answered, why it teaches history, geography, and the stamps themselves have a certain money value; it teaches the laying by "for a rainy day." But when I go to my Island home, I can say it gives you a welcome in foreign lands, it opens its hospitable arms and makes you feel that you are among friends, "and not a stranger in a strange land." —Speech of Major Evens before the National Society.

Conductorial.

In presenting this the first issue of a new periodical to the philatelical world, we would say at the start that it is the intention of the publishers not to encroach on the territory of any existing publications, but by treating the same subjects in a manner out of the usual ruts, and by looking on events from different points of view from existing magazines, to find a field for ourselves that shall broaden as we grow older in years.

Profiting by the experience of others we shall be enabled to escape their faults, and to go at once to new ground as it will be unnecessary to go over their well done work.

Entering upon a labor of love for Philately with the hope of being able to advance the cause in many ways, we shall endeavor to give the freshest and spiciest news, and the most reliable information that can be obtained from a corps of foreign correspondents and intimate relations with the collectors and dealers of the metropolis.

We shall during the year introduce to the philatelists of America new writers that can not fail to interest them, and we invite all collectors to make use of our departments to exchange information and impart knowledge.

Philatelists of America, allow us to introduce you to THE AMERICAN STAMP, and we hope that it will like its illustrious predecessor of 1842, receive as hearty a welcome as greeted the first *American Stamp.*

Postmaster General.

The North American Review for December contains an article by Thomas P. Hughes. While the article in question contains a little good, it contains much that—to speak with plain type—is not the truth.

Mr. Hughes wants the people of the United States to have as good a postal service "as the Hindoos of Benares or the Moslems of Bombay." Mr. Hughes would have each of the United States have its own Post Master General, and individual postal system "and native" stamps, etc., etc., just like his beloved India. He dislikes to see the United States mail carried "in huckster's wagons, donkey carts and hand barrows," and takes up the *Review's* valuble space with ancient but humorous postal reminiscenses.

Only two improvements, neither of which are original, are mentioned, i. e.: The C. O. D. parcel service and the duties of the Post Office Inspector. He says that the inspector is a sort of police detective, and in this we agree with him, the inspector's duties should be the improvement of the service and not the scaring of rural postmasters into honesty.

No! no! Mr. Harrison the philatelists of America know all about the postal service of India, both British and native, and do not want Mr. Thomas P. Hughes for Postmaster General.

Reprints.

Every one else seems to have had their say on this subject, now we'll take our innings. There seems to be too much discussion as to what are and what are not reprints. If philatelists would study their nomenclature a little and strive to use such terms as will make their meaning perfectly clear, there would "be fewer rows in camp."

The whole question now seems to hinge on which countries did receive their reprinted stamps for postage at face value.

Now if reprinted stamps were received at the post office in any land they are *not* reprints, they are *re-issues*, and if this term were used there would be no conflicting of meanings.

Again, it is well for the press and societies to be well posted as to which countries issued reprints for trade and which issued stamps after they had been obsolete and received them as valid stamps, but it is neither right or just for any association or society, either the A. P. A. or the National, to say what its members shall or shall not collect. But this they substantially do when they authorize their officers to remove or mar such reprinted stamps. Do they know for a certainty that there is no collector of just such varieties on the circuits?

The chief beauty of philately is, that no matter how small a collection, still there is always some novelty in it, but if we are to collect by a set rule, when our collections arrive at a certain period, they will be identical with all our friends'.

It is not that we favor the reprint or that we would antagonize any honest effort to force "trade stamps" out of the market, but the principles on which the fight is now based is wrong and it cannot succeed.

The Outlook.

A glance over the daily papers at present is especially interesting to Philatelists. in Hayti it is probable that if the warring factions do not proclaim peace and stop meddling with Uncle Sam, Admiral Luce will, before this item reaches the readers of the AMERICAN STAMP, have surcharged all the stamps in Hayti

"U. S. Territory" or with an Eagle. Should however the Haytians arrange matters with Admiral Luce, San Domingo may take a hand in the row and the Philatelist views the prospective provisionals with alarm. Another Chile-Peru affair would keep collectors busy for another decade in classifying and arranging them.

In Africa too the aspect of surcharges is appaling, which is British-Protectorate, or German-Protectorate or British or German Trans-Protectorate is hard to tell, so for the instruction as to the new geography of East Africa "Der Philatelist publishes a very good map of South Africa in general A-la- N. Y *Herald*. England has got into a little affair that may affect the Mozambique stamps or cause the annexing of "British" Zanzibar.

The Pope also would like to issue a set of stamps for "the States of the Church." But as the Church governs no States he would like William II. to assist him in founding a new empire.

Some Americans with the old British spirit of extension of the Empire would like to see Canada get out one new two-cent green, with Washington's profile replacing the Queen's.

Our Book Case.

One of the Latest arrivals on our shelves is the *Permanent Album*, Published by the Staten Island Society. The committee have done their work well and nought but commendation can be said of it.

Taking the best binder on the market they have improved it, and the cardboard leaves are of Colin's best stock.

Each page is faintly lithographed in quadrille and is of great assistance in arranging the pages of the different issues

The American Stamp Collectors' Directory, 1888, lies on the desk before us and we must own we are astonished—A large number of new Philatelists Mr. Townsend introduces us to. In this is the great value of the book all the *prominent* are well known so are the places where the U. S. M. can find them but the fresh list of names furnished to the public will no doubt be of great benefit to collectors and their collections.

Philatelic Societies.

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